

From: High Mobley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 11:42pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello. My name is High Mobley, and I am a systems and network administrator in Athens, GA. I am writing to tell you that I find the currently proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case to be insufficient. I believe that it does little or nothing to actually punish Microsoft for its illegal monopolistic abuses of which it has been found guilty. In my mind, Microsoft should not only be punished for its past monopolistic abuses, but should also be prevented from the same and similar abuses in the future.

The currently proposed settlement attempts to restrain Microsoft from committing future abuses of its monopoly power. However, it seems that there are simply too many loopholes that, based on its past actions, I feel certain Microsoft will be eager to take advantage of.

In order to encourage Microsoft to truly change its abusive behaviors, I think that there should be strong penalties levied against it for the abuses that brought about the current legal suit. Microsoft's offer to buy computers for underfunded schools is a bad idea because it would allow Microsoft to gain a stronger foothold in the minds of today's schoolkids, who will become tomorrow's business managers and IT directors. Why let Microsoft reward themselves? I do think that the company RedHat had a wonderful idea that Microsoft would give money for computer hardware only, while Redhat will donate operating system and application software, and provide free software upgrades in the future as well.

In order to ensure that Microsoft not repeat its past mistakes, I would like to see strong limits upon its ability to sell and market its products in ways that allow it to exert control over other businesses in the marketplace. Certainly requiring open API documentation is an ideal method to accomplish this, except that it could be rather difficult to enforce. This is a difficult situation to create easily enforceable remedies for! Perhaps splitting the company into three separate and wholly independent companies is not such a bad idea after all. Each company would be an exact replica of the current Microsoft, with Windows, Office, etc. in their stables. Then let competition take over from there.

You have a very tough row to hoe! My best wishes to you all in the DOJ who are working on this case. Keep up the good fight and know that the American public appreciates your every effort to bring about remedies which benefit the general marketplace.

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